

INCOMING AIRGRAM

Department of State

ACTION COPY

34
Action
EUR
Info
RMRCONFIDENTIAL
Classification2/24 ARN Eng: Ber: FDR
SOTMIGG B0117
File PAGE OF PAGES
Date Sent: Rec'd:

FEBRUARY 16, 1959

CN: 1223

TO: Embassy Bonn G-116
Secretary of State G-290
SUB: RPTD: POLAD CHAREUR
REF.: Berlin's G-109 to Bonn, G-279 to DeptFEB 16 4:3 PM '59
Cable by Return
PACSS
W
G
SP
C
L
INR
H
P
UOP
IRC

OCB
USIA
CIA
OSD
ARMY
NAVY
AIR

At recent meeting of Political Advisors British representative requested our views on what Allied policy should be with regard to permitting Soviets to continue enter West Berlin in event East Germans should close East-West sector border. British thinking particularly in terms movement Soviet personnel to Spandau Prison and Soviet War Memorial, both of which in British Sector. British recognized we cannot predict steps East Germans might take against traffic into East Sector, but nevertheless requested views be based on assumption such traffic, both Allied and German, would be at least severely curtailed.

We believe, even in event complete closure East-West sector border by East Germans, it preferable to permit Russians enter West Sectors freely on grounds that (1) it unwise for Western Allies to take or share costs of making final split of city; (2) we would not want to appear to recognize legality of terminating free movement throughout city by restricting such movement ourselves. Although British did not mention Berlin Air Safety Center (which in American Sector), Soviet access to BASC is one phase of Soviet travel to West Sectors that we have substantial interest in maintaining. Although it unlikely Sovs will continue participation BASC after closure sector borders, we would not rpt not want to shut them out and thereby assume part of costs for terminating four-power character of BASC.

On other hand, permitting Soviet personnel to enter West Berlin should not ryt not necessarily continue indefinitely after closure sector-sector border by East Germans. When it becomes apparent Soviets have no intention of continuing participation at BASC and have irrevocably abandoned all their responsibilities with regard to Berlin, we should consider closing Spandau Prison and imposing restrictions on Soviet movements into West Berlin.

We realize that no final policy can be developed until exact nature restrictions on Western access to East Berlin becomes known. In meantime if Embassy and Dept agree, we will reply to British inquiry along foregoing lines.

CN: 1223

USCOB concurs,

Cleared with USCOB - Col Johnson
2-16-59

Pemberton/CJohnson/plb CONFIDENTIAL

GOWLER

AMW: F BIRCH, JR.

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS
PROHIBITED UNLESS EXPRESSLY
PERMITTED IN THE ACTION TAKEN.

PERMANENT RECORD COPY • This copy must be returned to RMT central files.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 87748

BG NADA Date 10/76